



Write Connections

Volume 23 Number 3

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The TAMPA WRITERS ALLIANCE is an organization of adult writers—amateur and professional, beginning and advanced—who share a keen interest in improving skills and resources. Its members, who number about 100, create works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry; as well as stage and screenplays. In addition to its monthly general meeting, the TWA conducts workshops in specific aspects of writing, provides free assistance to scholastic and literary groups, sponsors an annual writing contest open to all writers, and publishes a yearly anthology.



Party Meeting March 5th, 7:00 PM, Sandra Kischuk's House

Our next regular meeting, March 5th, will be a pot luck House Party at the home of Past President, Sandra Kischuk. Every member, new member, and prospective member is invited. TWA will supply the party-ware plus beer, wine, ice, and cheese ...yum!

Members should bring something to share, a bucket of chicken, possum, collards, pizza, cherry-pie, whatever. We're not picky, just hungry. This is your grand opportunity to interact with other great writers. **WE WILL NOT BE MEETING AT THE LIBRARY IN MARCH! The Party is at Sandra Kischuk's house, 2107 West Fore Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. Phone 813-935-7760.**

Directions from I-275 N: Exit Busch Blvd. Take Busch Blvd west to Florida Avenue. Turn right onto Florida Avenue and head north to Linebaugh Avenue. Turn left onto Linebaugh Avenue and head west to Armenia Avenue. Turn right onto Armenia Avenue and head north until you come to W. Fore Drive, (on the left.) Turn left onto W. Fore and go to stop sign. Turn right and you'll see 2107 on the right. Park along the street.

Proposed AMENDMENT To TWA BYLAWS

A proposal has been approved by the EXCOM to AMEND TWA's BYLAWS. Presently, ARTICLE X, Section D. says "Each member in good standing at the time of distribution shall receive one copy of the TWA anthology, Wordsmith, each year."

New wording will replace wording in this section to read "Each TWA member in good standing entering the annual writing contest will be eligible to receive one free copy of the Wordsmith anthology containing the winning manuscripts for that contest."

Voting on this proposed change will occur at the April Regular Meeting.

The reason for this change is that we have very little demand for Wordsmith other than those who enter the contest. We are wasting too much money by printing too many copies.

Note: Prose, notices, press releases and one time book promotions may appear in newsletter if space permits and you submit to the editor before the 20th of each month.

"A Writer's Life...Calendar and Notes" from Past President Sandra Kischuk

HORIZON LINE

If you are sitting at a dining room table, you see the top of it. When you are sitting on the floor by it, you will see the edge. If you lie under it, you see the underside of the top. Same table—it hasn't changed...the only thing that is different is how you are looking at it.

If an artist does not understand that his chosen level of viewing things determines what he sees and what he does not, and he tries to put in more than what he would really see, the viewer is uncomfortable and not certain why the picture doesn't work. This is often called "primitive," but even some of the best known popular artists today violate the rules of perspective and cover it over with charming gimmicks and shameless marketing.

M.C. Escher broke the rules (this is the guy who did the drawings where you never know whether the stairs or the waterfalls are going up or down), but he did it with a calculated understanding of exactly what he was doing. His works intrigue the mind—we *know* what we see in his work is *impossible* in real life, and we study it, visually tracing over the pathways, trying to find that "break" where the rules were violated. One hand draws the other one while the other one is drawing the first. And we try to figure out where it all starts.

Someone who is educated in drawing will say the perspective is "off." The artist, either consciously (for artistic reasons) or unconsciously (usually through ignorance and assuming he *knows* what is really there without actually looking at it), chose to use multiple perspectives. For the viewer, this can be confusing, or even irritating.

If you're not an artist, don't worry, I'm getting there.

If you set a ruler on a magazine picture of something architectural (that is not in ruins) and trace the rooflines and foundations of the buildings, you will find the lines either run completely horizontal (parallel to the face of the page) or converge on one horizontal line (lot of times far off the side of the page, but often, in the case of a room interior within the page).

The lines from ceiling, walls, and floors often come together at a single *vanishing point*, which tells you the exact point in the center of where the individual was looking. If you have a lot of different furniture at angles to the walls, the edges will not converge at that same vanishing point, but will come together at the same horizontal level.

That horizontal line is called the *horizon line*, and it tells you the height the picture was taken from, whether the camera was at ground level or high in the trees. Meaning...you may be looking at a picture and think that the image is the only information you are getting...but you are getting additional information. The photographer, even unconsciously, is telling you about himself...not only in his choice of subjects, the lighting, the angle...but even more than that. He is telling you *where* he stood when he took the picture.

It is the same in life. When someone shares a picture of his or her life, it is not only the picture that you learn about, but exactly where the person stood taking the picture.

I'm not just talking about *images*. I am talking about life perspectives...how a person sees themselves and the world around them...which is all dependent on where he or she is...age-wise, experience-wise, education, what the person chooses to remember and what they choose to forget ...and who else the person keeps in his or her life.

If all you are seeing is the underside of the table, you have a choice. You can saw the legs off so it's closer to the floor.

Or you just might want to stand up.

What is your perspective?

How do you see things?

If the world does not look right to you, how do you change your horizon line?



Greetings from TWA President Michael Darling

I have received only a few e-mails of introduction and/or voicing of TWA concerns or opportunities by members. So I assume this means that most everyone thinks the TWA is doing a wonderful job. I am glad to hear it! This is my attempt at sarcasm. But seriously, I have heard some topics of distress from members so far and I am grateful for the chance to lessen or eliminate them if we can. My inbox, darling@HopliteRenegades.com will always be open if anyone needs to use it—for anything at all (except spam or chain letters, lol).

One major point of interest that does seem to be of concern to many is the possibility of moving the monthly general meetings. Both the where and the when are up for discussion. Sandra Kischuk has been and is still attempting to locate another facility, possibly in the Carrollwood area. This is to alleviate the uneasy feelings many members have in attending the meetings downtown at the John Germany Library. Please let us know if you know of any safer potential meeting sites. And as for the when; now is the time to chime up with your opinion. Do we still want to meet on the first Wednesday night of each month? Or do we want to move to Saturdays? If Saturday, then AM or PM? All members: please shoot me an e-mail with your preference. I will tally the votes and majority will be the course we will pursue as an organization. Please send them to me ASAP as we have to sign a new contract with the library or move on very soon. We will continue to pursue a new location for Wednesday nights if I do not receive any opinions on the matter.

Regardless of the outcome, the March meeting at 7pm on the 5th will still be the house party at Sandra Kischuk's abode—a.k.a. Party Central. This is a great opportunity to meet other members, network, eat, converse, and have fun. Thank you Sandra for volunteering to host such a wonderful event! Everyone, please bring a dish to share with others.

Please check out Debra Marrs' website writingtogether.com/, especially if you are interested in participating in her writing workshop retreat here in Tampa on February 29th from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. That's coming up here real soon, so do not procrastinate! It is perfect if you need an inviting creative atmosphere for a day. Debra describes the spotlight of the event this way: "The structure for the day will focus on 4 Core Elements for Mastering Every Day Writing to L.E.A.P. your writing processes and projects forward in 2008.

- **L.earn** - fresh ideas for creating balance between your writing life and your *other* life.
- **E.xplore** - set aside old belief patterns (fear, doubt, negative self-talk, worries).
- **A.ccess** - your creative muse through experiential exercises, quiet reflection and walking meditations.
- **P.lan** - your personal writing strategies for publishing success in 2008."

Whether you plan to attend the retreat or not, definitely go to Debra's website and download a **free** copy of 99 *Ways to Jumpstart Your Creative Writing* e-book. I am very glad I did so. It contains plenty of good reminders and inventive ways to get the creative juices flowing for us writers.

MegaCon in Orlando will be held from Friday, March 7th to Sunday, March 9th. This is a great venue for comic books, fantasy, science fiction, and horror genres. I will be there selling my science fiction novel, *Hoplite Renegades*, at the convention. So if you like that kind of stuff, drop by Orlando and check it out. megaconvention.com/ It is a huge convention and costs \$22.37 to get in the door, but there will be tons of geeky things to see and do. Actors from TV and movies like Smallville, Battlestar Galactica, and Star Trek will be signing autographs.

New Meeting Site Coming Soon

By popular demand, TWA is presently scouting out a new meeting site to replace the John Germany Library. We have had numerous complaints about the downtown location and hope to announce a new meeting location in the April newsletter. Please know your concerns have been heard and acted upon.

Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition

Hello!

My name is Joanne Denning, and I'm one of the coordinators of the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition. We are a well-respected literary contest now in our 28th year, and we would like to get some information about entry opportunities to you and other members of your writers' group or association.

We realize you may want to check out our credibility before making our information available to your writers; please feel free to look up our listings in *Writer's Market*, *Poets and Writers*, and other literary references. We encourage you to visit our website at www.shortstorycompetition.com for further background and listings of previous winners.

Following is the information we hope you will post on your site or in your newsletter for fiction writers to review. (Please feel free to modify the information to fit your format.)

If such a posting is not appropriate, please let me know how it would be best to reach your writers. Thank you very much!

\$2,000 Awaits Winners of Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition

Entries are now being accepted for the 28th annual Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition, created to recognize and encourage the efforts of writers who have not yet achieved major-market success. Writers will compete for a \$1,000 first prize, \$500 second prize, and \$500 third prize in this internationally acclaimed competition. Several honorable mentions are also awarded each year.

Stories in all genres of fiction are welcome. Maximum length is 3,000 words, and writers retain all rights to their work. The final deadline is May 15, 2008; winners will be announced at the end of July.

For complete guidelines, please visit www.shortstorycompetition.com, e-mail shortstorykw@aol.com, or send an SASE to the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition, P.O. Box 993, Key West, FL 33041.

EXCOM Makes Changes to 2008 Writing Contest

- Multiple submissions will be permitted in every category.
- Members will pay \$5.00 per submission.
- Non-members may enter and will pay \$10.00 per submission.
- All first prize money will be the same regardless of category.
- The Awards Banquet will be free to TWA members who enter the contest.
- The Awards Banquet will not be free to non-members and TWA members who did not enter the contest.
- Winning submissions will not be read at the Awards Banquet.
- Wordsmith will be free to TWA members who enter the contest.
- Wordsmith will not be free to non- members and TWA members who did not enter the contest.
- The floating category will be “Emerging Writers Fiction/Non-fiction. Open only to TWA members who have never won TWA writing contest prize money.

TWA Critique Group – Charles Greenwood, Coordinator

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm. NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.

Please e-mail submissions to Charles Greenwood, charles_greenwood@yahoo.com. We accept and critique all genres except poetry. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 7-9 PM in the right rear of the Barnes and Noble bookstore at 11802 North Dale Mabry Highway (next to Piccadilly cafeteria). That's just south of Stall Road. If you see Borders, you're too far north.

Visitors are welcome to attend, if interested in joining, but only members' works will be discussed, generally 4-5 pieces per session. Works to be critiqued are distributed to TWA members via e-mail approximately two weeks before the next scheduled meeting. The author has a chance to respond after verbal critiques are finished. Emphasis is on constructive criticism. For further information, visit our Website at: www.tampawriters.org

The Poetry Group

4th Thursday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER.

Yes, the Tampa Writers Alliance has a meeting for poets. We meet at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers (North) just south of Stall Road on North Dale Mabry Hwy. We get together at the tables in the back on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 PM. If you're lucky, all you'll need is a bunch of copies of your work (We average about 15 poets per meeting, plus who-knows-what.) Copies are not even compulsory. You can read yours or sing yours or have someone else do it for you. If you only appreciate poetry, bring your favorite to read. We go round and round the table. If you want critique, ask for it. Otherwise, we're there just to enjoy hearing each other emote and comment. Seriously, something bizarre almost always happens, so be ready. As for that, we always manage to have a lot of fun anyway, yes, in spite of everything. Give us a try. Free admission.

Warner D. Conarton, Tampa Writers Alliance Poetry Group Coordinator

e-mail: warnerdconarton@netscape.com Web-page: warnerconarton.com

11th Annual One-Act Weekend 2008

Call for One Act Scripts

The Carrollwood Players Annual One-Act Weekend originated in 1997 with six locally written plays. Each succeeding year there was an increase in the number of submissions. We are a volunteer nonprofit group and, in order to offset the administrative tasks involved in processing, evaluating, and selecting scripts we require a non-refundable fee of \$10 to accompany each play. We normally schedule eight one-acts to be performed in a single weekend in August and the majority of the entry fund is returned in the form of financial awards to the three playwrights whose scripts are designated as favorites by vote of the attending audiences.

A single copy of scripts, typed in standard format, may be submitted by mail (no e-mail, please), postmarked no later than April 1, 2008.

Carrollwood Players
P.O. Box 270116
Tampa, FL 33688
ATTENTION: One-Act Play Producer

All plays must be original (no adaptations), requiring minimal set, props, and costumes and not previously performed in the Tampa area. Include current street address, telephone number, and e-mail address for future contact. No more than three one-act plays of ten to fifteen minutes duration (or less) will be evaluated from each playwright. Only a single play by a playwright will be selected for production. Our theater is essentially family oriented and our audiences frequently include pre-adults. Blatantly adult themes and/or language are only acceptable when the play reading committee considers it vital to the plot.

All playwrights will be notified by e-mail within a few weeks after the closing date as to whether their play has been selected.

THANK YOU for your participation in and support of **Carrollwood Players**.

www.carrollwoodplayers.org
www.myspace.com/carrollwoodplayers

Tampa Writers Alliance

Benefits of Membership

- **Meet and get acquainted with other writers.** TWA hosts two member parties a year. These provide all members a chance to make new friends and enjoy old ones.
- **Educational programs of interest to writers.** Each monthly meeting offers an opportunity to learn something that may help your writing skills grow.
- **Writers critique group.** Two monthly critique group meetings offer members a chance to have their manuscripts evaluated by their peers.
- **Poetry critique group.** Two monthly poetry critique group meetings offer members a chance to have their poetry evaluated by other poets.
- **Eligible to promote and sell books at St Pete Times Festival of Reading.** Each year TWA pays the fees necessary for one or more booths at the one day St Petersburg Times Festival of Reading. TWA members can promote, display and sell their books at TWA's booth.
- **Eligible to join others in judging manuscripts for Hillsborough County Teachers of English annual writing contest.** Each year TWA members are asked to judge manuscripts for HCTE. This opportunity allows our members to apply their knowledge and skills in helping young writers find their talent.
- **Eligible to enter annual writing contest and win hundreds of dollars.** Each year TWA awards over \$2,000.00 in prizes to the best entries in our writing contest.
- **Attend TWA's Annual Awards Banquet.** In January of each year our members gather to recognize the winners of the writing contest and hear the best of the best manuscripts in each category.
- **Free copy of Wordsmith anthology.** Each member is eligible to receive a free copy of TWA's Wordsmith anthology. The Wordsmith contains all the winning entries from the writing contest.
- **Receive TWA's "Write Connections" newsletter with information on events, writing contests, programs, conferences, etc.** Every month our members receive news of interest to writers.

Tampa Writers Alliance **Membership Application**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

To join TWA and receive full membership benefits, fill out the application above and mail it with your check for **\$35.00** (payable to Tampa Writers Alliance) to:

Paul DuBose Treasurer, TWA
501 Royal Wood Court
Valrico, FL 33594

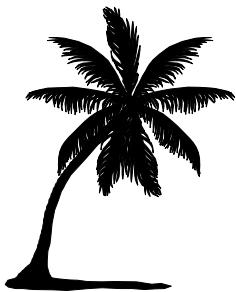
TWA Directory

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President	Michael Darling	813-662-1615	darling@HopliteRenegades.com
Vice President	James Durlacher	813-770-2346	onekewlkat@hotmail.com
Secretary	Beth Miller	813-909-8970	tishm@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer	Paul DuBose	813-685-2033	ppdubose@aol.com
Member-at-Large	Charrie Moscardini	727-726-0814	charrie-m@earthlink.net
Member-at-Large	Marianne Aluotto	850-206-3228	m_aluotto25@hotmail.com
Poetry	Warner Conarton	352-588-3228	WarnerDConarton@netscape.com
Write Connections Editor	James A. Young	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com
Critique Group	Charles Greenwood	727-733-2186	charles_greenwood@yahoo.com
Wordsmith Editor	Sandra Kischuk	813-935-7760	sjkischuk@juno.com
Website	Jim Chaplin	813-835-4255	jpcflorida@hotmail.com
Publicity/Public Relations	Adele-Ida Walter	813-932-6902	adeleidawalter@hotmail.com
Contest Coordinator	James A. Young	813-391-1139	jayoung@mindspring.com

TWA WEBSITE

WWW.TAMPAWRITERS.ORG

Stay Cool and **Write On!**



Tampa Writers Alliance
Write Connections
 c/o James A. Young
 2826 Keyville Rd E
 Lithia, FL 33547